

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Totes for trash



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The days of hauling trash bags and store-bought containers to the alley or street for pick up — these were awaiting pick-up along an alley on the west side of Portland this morning — may soon be no more for the city's residents. Portland Board of Works on Thursday approved the purchase of 3,000 96-gallon trash totes — one for each residence.

Board approves purchase of new containers in effort to make collection process easier and safer

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Every residence in Portland will be getting new trash containers.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday approved the purchase of new trash totes for all of the city's residents on order to make the collection process both faster and safer for city workers.

Street department superintendent Tom Leonhard presented the board with the plan to purchase 96-gallon trash totes for each residence, citing a variety of reasons.

Noting that the city's current trash trucks are already equipped to pick up totes, he said it would make the process safer and more efficient. Rather than picking up trash bags or trying to pull out bags that have been stuffed into trash cans, workers would instead wheel the totes to the rear of the truck. The truck would then pick up and empty totes automatically.

"They don't have to do the lifting, which is a big help," said Portland Mayor John Boggs, who is also a member of the board of works.

Leonhard added that street department employees have been injured in the past, such as being cut by broken glass when reaching into a trash can to remove a bag. He added that the lids on the totes would help keep bees and rodents from getting into trash.

"It's a safety thing for the trash guys and it's going to be easier for the residents," said Leonhard.

Residents would put both trash and recyclables into the totes, with the recyclable items still separated into their green bags.

He suggested buying 3,000 totes from Best Equipment at a total cost of about \$235,000. (He estimated that through regular trash fees, the city could pay off that cost in about 14 months.) The quote from Best Equipment includes assembly and delivery to each residence.

Each tote would come with a serial number and be assigned to a specific residence. (Those who would need more than one tote would be able to purchase more.)

See Totes page 2

County stays rated orange

Cases have been up following holidays

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The county didn't manage to shift to yellow. But it also didn't move back to red.

Jay County held steady in the Indiana State Department of Health update released Wednesday as it was rated "orange" (high risk for the spread of coronavirus) for the second week in a row.

The local numbers had been trending toward "yellow" (moderate risk) last week, but an uptick in cases Dec. 29 and 30 kept the county at orange. Jay County's cases per 100,000 residents went up to 283 this week from 225 last week. (The threshold to move to yellow is 200.)

In the other statistic the state department of health uses to determine coronavirus risk, the seven-day positivity rate dipped to 7.33%. It was at 11.36% last week. (The threshold to move to yellow is 5%.)

Local numbers showed a similar pattern this week, with a dip in cases over the holiday weekend but double-digit cases reported both Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The statewide map showed a shift back to more significant coronavirus risk, with 48 counties rated "red" (extreme risk), up from 27 last week. The remaining 44 counties, including Randolph, Delaware, Blackford, Wells and Adams, were rated orange.

Hospitalization numbers in District 6, which includes Jay County, are down from the recent peak of 380 but still remain high. The number was at 327 as of Wednesday. (In early November, the number was at 127.)

See Orange page 2

Bill pushes responsibility

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Republican lawmakers advanced a proposal Thursday that would severely limit Indiana workplace COVID-19 vaccination requirements, arguing it is time to rely on personal responsibility and protections such as immunity from a previous infection.

The Republican-dominated Indiana House could debate approving the business vaccine mandate limitations next week after a committee endorsed the bill in a 7-4 vote Thursday, just two days after this year's legislative session opened. The fast-track House action comes even though Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb and GOP Senate leaders have opposed the bill as wrongly

Legislation would limit workplace requirements

interfering in the decisions of private businesses.

The committee approved changes making anyone fired for not getting a COVID-19 vaccination eligible for unemployment benefits and forcing employers to accept as a vaccine exemption a worker's medical test results showing some level of immunity through a previous infection. Medical studies have cast doubt on the idea of natural immunity as a stand-in for vaccines.

Required exemptions for medical or religious rea-

sons were already included in the bill.

Republican House Majority Leader Matt Lehman of Berne said a company could require someone claiming immunity from a previous infection to provide proof from another test no more once every six months. If those tests don't show the presence of antibodies, then "you'll be back and subject to the other exemptions because you can't show that immunity," Lehman said.

See Bill page 5



The Washington Post/Astrid Recken

Capitol reflection

Photographers take pictures at the U.S. Capitol early in the morning Thursday.

Deaths

Agatha Mock, 84, Muncie
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 16 late Thursday, with a low of 14 and wind chill of minus 1 about 6 a.m.

Tonight's low will be 11. On Saturday, wind gusts may reach as high as 25 mph.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

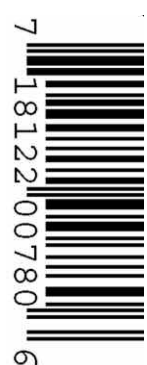
In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's JCHS girls basketball game against Bluffton.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Obituaries

Agatha Mock

Oct. 1, 1937-Jan. 4, 2022
Agatha Marie Mock, 84, of Muncie, Indiana, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 at Hickory Creek Nursing Home of New Castle, Indiana.

She was born Oct. 1, 1937, in Redkey, Indiana, the daughter of Kenneth and Katherine (Sonntag) Grogg. She received her associate degree in nursing from Ivy Tech.

Agatha, an LPN, retired in 2017 after many years with Muncie Healthcare. She enjoyed spending her leisure

time playing bingo and bowling.

She leaves to cherish her memory six children, Lynda Green of Muncie, Indiana, Cheryl Williams (Fred) of Muncie, Indiana, Rhonda Skeens (husband, Roger) of Dunkirk, Indiana, Debbie Helfst (husband, Bob) of Dunkirk, Indiana, Rick Mock (wife, Joann) of Dunkirk, Indiana and Stan Mock of Noblesville, Indiana; a brother, Francis



Mock

Grogg (wife, Wanda) of Turkey Run Lake, Indiana; two sisters, Mary Craig of Orlando, Florida and Kathy Brown of Carrollton, Ohio; fourteen grandchildren, Josh, Jeremy and Justin Green, Raelyn Williams, Cory Mock, Lee Mock (Kathryn), Christopher Evans (Alana), Eric Evans (DJ), Ashley Curran (Kody), Zach Cox, Logan Cox (Kennedy), Jason Skeens (Christy), Robyn Schroeder (Kyle) and Amber Lewis; 22 great-grandchildren; one great great grandchild; sisters-in-law, Sharon Brenner (Jackie), Paula Auker (Jim),

Sue Ann McLaughlin (Bruce) and Patty Moore (Mike); several nieces & nephews; and a beloved canine companion, Gizmo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a husband, Jerry Mock; sons, Dennis and Michael Lewis; and brothers, Sam and Bill Grogg.

There will be no service. Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022 at Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Thornburg Memorial Chapel of Parker City, Indiana. The family is requiring masks

to be worn by those attending. Memorial contributions may be made to stjude.org. Online condolences may be expressed at wilsonshookfh.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.

They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Table with weather forecasts for Saturday 1/8, Sunday 1/9, Monday 1/10, Tuesday 1/11, and Wednesday 1/12. Includes temperature ranges and brief weather descriptions.

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results for Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, and Ohio. Includes estimated jackpots and winning numbers.

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, and The Andersons Richland Township. Includes prices for wheat, corn, and beans.

Today in history

On Jan. 7, 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.
In 1608, an accidental fire devastated the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony.
In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.
In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.
In 1955, singer Mari-

an Anderson made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera."
In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.
In 1963, the U.S. Post Office raised the cost of a first-class stamp from 4 to 5 cents.
In 1972, Portland Fire Department put out a fire at 310 S. Middle St. The fire that was caused by a defective water heater resulted in minor damage.
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, commissioner's room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks,

Totes ...

Continued from page 1
It is expected to take 60 to 120 days for the new totes to be delivered.

In the interim, Leonhard said he would like to work on updating the city's ordinance regarding trash pick up to indicate that use of the new trash totes would be mandatory to create a uniform process. (Any changes to city ordinances would require city council approval.)

Board of works members Steve McIntosh, Jerry Leonhard and Boggs unanimously approved the purchase.

In other business, board members:
•OK'd the purchase of a 2018 New Holland backhoe with just three hours of use for the water department at a cost of \$50,000 from K&L Tractor Sales in Fort Recovery. Water department superintendent Doug Jackson noted that he had gotten

quotes on new backhoes that were between \$110,000 and \$115,000. (Jackson noted that his department may be in need for a new water pump but that he needs more time to study options and will return with more information in the coming months.)

•Learned from Boggs that the city has been approved to purchase wetland mitigation credits to complete its monitoring responsibilities for the area of the former XPLEX Extreme Sports Park on the north side of county road 100 North. (The mayor first announced the approval at Monday's city council meeting.)

•Approved the following: Writing off debts more than two years old totaling \$578.33; voiding checks more than two years old totaling 584.59;

•Heard from Boggs that the service weapon from former police chief

Josh Stephenson has been turned in. Stephenson left active duty several months earlier but had been taking vacation time.

•Hired Cody Muhlenkamp as a new street department employee and Brandon Wright as a new police officer to replace Erica Post, who is departing to join the Dunkirk department. Wright was a candidate for a previous job opening and had been conditionally approved to be hired if another opening became available. (Portland Mayor John Boggs said the city does not concur with a recent letter to the editor that argued city ordinance does not allow such a process.)

•Heard Boggs reappointed Jerry Leonhard to the Jay-Portland Planning Committee.

•Signed the city's nepotism policy as required each year.

Orange ...

Continued from page 1

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to report that vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (It also recommends that masks be worn indoors in areas of "substantial or high transmission," which includes Jay County.) This week, the CDC extended its recommendation for booster

shots to all those 12 and older. (The previous recommendation was 18 and older).

The state's website indicates Jay County currently has eight vaccination sites — CVS in Portland and Dunkirk, Walgreens in Portland and Jay County Health Department, as well as IU Health Jay and its primary care provider practices. (Vaccines for chil-

dren 5 to 11 years old are available only at the health department and the IU Health Jay sites.)

Jay County continues to rank sixth-lowest in vaccination rate among Indiana's 92 counties. Its rate is 38.5%. Marion County is highest in the state at 76.8%.

Coronavirus is mainly spread through droplets or particles from an infected

person coughing, sneezing, talking or breathing.

The virus causes a range of symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, which can appear two to 14 days after exposure.

Deeds

Janet S. and Paul S. Resler to Ruiz Rentals, warranty deed — Part of Outlot 1, West Addition of Portland Hermann Family Farms to Crystal R. and Jason W. Suman, warranty deed — Part of Section 19, Jackson Township, 2 acres

Very Good Real Estate Investments to itself, quit claim deed — Lot 97, Mt. Auburn Addition
Ridgemont Properties to Very Good Real Estate Investments, quit claim deed — Lot 18, Bartlett Addition

Godric's Hollow 613 to itself and Best Indiana Real Estate Investments, quit claim deed — Lot 18, Block 37, original plat of Dunkirk

Amanda D. Nicely to Kyle Van Horn, warranty deed — Lots 19, 20 and 21, Hanlin Addition
Bradford L. and Lisa K. Gage to Marry E. Tilley, warranty deed — Lots 10, 11 and 12, Evan Evans First Addition

Kathy A. Price to herself, death deed — Part of Sections 4 and 36, Greene Township, 59.98 acres

Peggy R. Scott to herself, death deed — Part of Section 14, Bearcreek Township, 1 acre

Elvin E. Newhouse to Teddy J. Bessesen Sr. and Stella L. Bessesen, quit claim deed — Part of Section 34, Penn Township

Trinity Acres to Gerard Muhlenkamp, corporate warranty deed — Part of Section 20, Wabash Township, 2.34 acres

Paggy L. Miller to Jesse W. Miller, quit claim deed — Lot 9, Gross Subdivision

Lisa M. Williams (also known as Lisa M. Wolford) and Richard B. Williams (deceased) to Lisa M. Williams/Lisa M. Wolford, death deed — Lot 30, Jaqua Second Addition

MBM Downs Realty and Phyllis G. Gutman Revocable Generation Skipping Trust to Phyllis G. Gutman Revocable Generation Skipping Trust, warranty deed — Part of Section 27, Penn Township, about 2 acres

Krueckeberg Real Estate Holdings, GA Fleming Real Estate and Robert D., Cheryl L. and Pierce A. Harris to Michelle L. and Stephen S. Keller, warranty deed — Part of Section 12, Jackson Township, 80.74 acres

Alexis Raszkowski and Joe Raszkowski to Sue E. McLaughlin, warranty deed — Woodlawn Park Addition

Douglas A. and Glenda L. Votaw to Adam L. and Kristen N. Miller, warranty deed — Part of Section 3, Pike Township, 1.21 acres

Pinnacle Properties to Chalista

Conn and Gaige Bailey, quit claim deed — Lot 132, South Portland

Kimber Harris and Cameron L. Kunkle to Kathryn M. and Michael L. Kunkle, warranty deed — Part of Section 9, Madison Township, 2 acres

Ninde Enterprises to Huntsman Projects, corporate warranty deed — Part of Lot 2, Block 20, original plat of Portland

Debra S. Myers to herself (Debra S. Roessner), deed affidavit — Part of Section 31, Bearcreek Township, 5 acres

Terry D. Hammers to Sharon M. Hammers, quit claim deed — Tracts 1, 2 and 3, Part of Section 13, Richland Township

Kevin L. Sills to American Electric Power/Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, easement — Part of Sections 3 and 4, Greene Township, about 3.307 acres

Cyril Brockman Jr. to Brockman Farms, quit claim deed — Part of Section 11, Madison Township, 49.40 acres

Arthur B. Boeckman Trust and Eileen M. Boeckman Trust to American Electric Power/Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, easement — Part of Section 5, Wayne Township, 0.543 acres

See page 5

Capsule Reports

Truck hits pole

A California driver misjudged the turn into the Advance Auto parking lot at 1512 N. Meridian St., Portland, about 2:15 p.m. Tuesday and struck a light pole.

Emmanulle Toress

Gomez, 38, Atwater, California, was driving a 2014 GDT truck registered to Penske Truck Leasing, Richmond, Virginia. Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Felony arrests

Held in jail

Samuel David Pitman III, 28, 6596 W. 500 South, Redkey, is being held in Jay County Jail on a Level 6 felony count of unlawful possession of a syringe and a Level 6 felony count of possession of a narcotic drug.

No information on his bond was available. He was arrested Thursday.

SERVICES

Saturday

May, Vickie: 11 a.m., Salomonia Church of Christ, 3900 S. 600 East, Portland.

Ashcraft, Mary: 1 p.m., Southside Church of Christ, 1209 S. Shank St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com



Swiss Village

Now Seeking:

I.T. Systems Technician

The I.T. Systems Technician will be responsible for becoming familiar with all existing and yet to be implemented software, systems, and technology related processes critical to Swiss Village, as well as network topology and be able to resolve connection and configuration issues in switches and firewalls throughout the Swiss Village community. This position is also responsible for I.T. Help Desk duties, deployment of user desktops and laptops, and the security administration of a Windows environment. Experience with Active Directory/Group Policy administration, wireless network administration, and .Net software development will be a plus. This position will be 40 hours/week, Monday – Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm, with bi-weekly on-call requirements. Qualified candidates must have an Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or a related field with 2 or more years of hands-on I.T. experience. Seeking candidates with strong customer service skills, who are security minded self-starters and can work independently. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Apply online at or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org
Application deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022, at 5:00pm.

Chicken soup recipe takes a new turn

By **ELLIE KRIEGER**

Special To The Washington Post

The chicken soup I grew up eating, the Jewish penicillin my grandmother and generations before her made, is such a part of who I am, I cook it from deeply ingrained memory, and I make it often. But recently, while I was starting to whip up a batch, I had the urge to spike it with a warming tingle of ginger instead of the usual dill.

That tweak opened a wide gate, which ultimately led to this deeply delicious, nutritious recipe my grandmother would have found totally unfamiliar.

Along with the ginger, I added garlic and turmeric to bring both flavor and additional anti-inflammatory benefits to the usual onion-carrot-celery trio. I used chicken broth and added breast meat, as she would have, but you could use vegetable broth and



The Washington Post/Scott Suchman

Ginger, garlic and tumeric added together make a different variation of chicken noodle soup.

omit the chicken to make it vegetarian if you prefer. Instead of the usual egg noodles, I went in a healthier direction with the add-ins, using a can of chickpeas for heartiness and vegetable protein, and green beans and spinach for more texture, color and nutrition.

The result is a soup that seems the very essence of healing good-

ness, comforting, belly-warming and full of flavor. With its golden-hued broth, bounty of green vegetables and chickpeas, it may bear little resemblance to my grandmother's soup, but I'm 100% sure she would love it.

Golden Chicken Vegetable Soup with Chickpeas

Total time: 1 hour

Six servings
This chicken soup is the very essence of healing goodness: comforting, belly-warming and full of flavor. The broth gets its golden hue from turmeric, and layers of flavor from ginger and garlic, all known for their anti-inflammatory benefits. With green beans, spinach and chickpeas, it is chock full of texture and vegetable nutrition, too. To make the soup vegetarian, use vegetable broth and omit the chicken.

Storage Notes: Leftover soup can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium carrots (5 ounces total), diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 medium yellow onion (about 8 ounces), diced
- 1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

- or finely grated
- 1 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 8 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 8 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breast
- One (15-ounce) can no-salt-added chickpeas, drained and rinsed or 1 1/2 cups cooked chickpeas
- 4 ounces green beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces (1 cup)
- 2 cups baby spinach, coarsely chopped

Directions

In a large soup pot over medium heat, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the carrots, celery and onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Stir in the ginger, garlic, salt, pepper and turmeric and cook for 1 minute more.

Add the broth and bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and add the chicken. Simmer, uncovered, until the chicken is cooked through, 20 to 25 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a plate.

Add the chickpeas and green beans to the pot, increase the heat to medium-high and return the broth to a boil.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered, until the green beans are tender, about 10 minutes.

While the green beans are softening, use two forks to tear the chicken into bite-size pieces. When the green beans are tender, return the chicken, with any accumulated juices, to the pot. Stir in the spinach and cook until wilted, about 1 minute.

Remove from the heat, ladle into bowls and serve hot.

Longtime friend brings others on outings

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Tara," I have known for a long time. Early in our friendship when we made plans, she would bring her boyfriend along (without asking or telling me she was). When she began dating her now-husband, it continued. I did grow to like him and appreciated the chance to get to know him, but I thought it could have been handled better (a planned event where we all hung out occasionally, not her dragging him along to everything we had planned together).

She's married now, and a mother, and now every time we hang out, she brings along her rambunctious 6-year-old. Tara's mother is older and lives with her, and sometimes she comes along with them. I'm the boy's godmother (we are close, he calls me Auntie and I love him dearly) but that doesn't mean I

Dear Abby



don't want some alone friend time with Tara.

The child is not well-behaved, so taking him out in public isn't always pleasant or easy. I am a planner. I dislike getting railroaded with babysitting when I'm anticipating a fun girls' day out. Tara usually waits until right before we're getting together to say he's coming, changes our plans or waits until she's on the way and says, "I hope it's OK 'Bobby' is coming with me." I find it rude and disrespectful of me and our time together.

I hate to lose a longtime friend, but I never know what I'm getting with her and am now hesitant to make plans with her. What would you do in this situation? — SIMMERING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SIMMERING: I would tell my friend that once in a while I don't mind an occasional change of plans, but when I have "a fun girls' day out" planned with her, I don't appreciate what she has been doing. Your feelings are valid.

DEAR ABBY: I have been invited to a wedding. I'm close with the bride and want to attend. However, more than 400 people have been invited, and I'm not comfortable attending an event this large where social distancing will be impossible. While I can try to keep my dis-

tance and, of course, wear a mask, the seating cannot be arranged so guests can socially distance.

I'm torn between protecting the health of others and myself, and preserving my friendship because she's a bride in love and I'm worried about hurting her feelings. In our state, gatherings of 100 people are allowed if they are outside and people wear masks and socially distance. She thinks the coronavirus is a hoax and God will have it go away completely by her wedding. I need to RSVP. Please help. — UNEASY IN OREGON

DEAR UNEASY: Tell your friend that you are sorry you will miss her wedding, but that you are not comfortable traveling at this time or being in large groups while the COVID-19 virus is still an issue and the omicron vari-

ant is more contagious than delta.

The COVID virus is not a "hoax," and none of us has such a close relationship with the Almighty that He (or She) will make it disappear so a bride can have a large wedding. The bride-to-be is entitled to her opinion, and you are equally entitled to yours, so send your regrets and the reason for them, and do not allow yourself to be sucked into a debate about it.

P.S. A nice wedding gift might "soften" the blow of your absence.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS

LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Jan. 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of

the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumsoldier.com.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m.

each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through

Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

Sudoku

1			8	5		6		
							4	9
					3	1	7	
3					8	2		6
		2				4		
			5		7		1	
9			4					
	6	3						
	4	8			5		2	

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

8	6	9	1	5	2	3	7	4
3	2	1	8	4	7	9	5	6
5	4	7	6	9	3	1	2	8
1	5	4	2	7	9	6	8	3
9	7	3	5	8	6	4	1	2
2	8	6	3	1	4	5	9	7
6	3	5	9	2	8	7	4	1
4	1	8	7	6	5	2	3	9
7	9	2	4	3	1	8	6	5

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Brides Section

in The Commercial Review **Specials**

Full page color
(only one available)

\$525

1/2 page color - **\$425**

1/2 page black and white - **\$225**

Big business card
(3x3.5)

\$78

Deadline is Jan. 13



Contact

Lindsey Cochran

260-726-8141

L.cochran@thecr.com

Make a difference in the new year

Kokomo Tribune

With each new year come new resolutions. While many of us often resolve — and often fail — to eat better, get more sleep and exercise, how about making a resolution we can actually stick with?

Becoming an organ donor is one of the most selfless and important decisions humans can make. And in 2021, Americans did not disappoint.

On Dec. 17, the United States set a new record when it surpassed 40,000 transplants in one year, according to the Unit-

Hoosier Editorial

ed Network for Organ Sharing. 2020 was the 10th consecutive year for record-breaking organ donations from deceased donors and the eighth in a row for deceased donor transplants. Dr. Matthew Cooper, UNOS president, said the

record number of transplants was a testament to the lifesaving work being done each day for others.

"It is ... a testament to the generosity of so many inspiring donors and their courageous families who gave the gift of life," Cooper said. "This news serves as a reminder that no matter what challenges we face as a nation, our community of doctors, patients, donor families, hospitals, organ procurement professionals and advocates are dedicated to building on past successes to

save even more lives. But there is always more work to do."

And while the milestone is something to celebrate, there are nearly 107,000 patients still on the waiting list for a transplant, while 20 people die each day waiting for an organ. Signing up to become a donor is a commitment we all can make. According to the Indiana Donor Network, anyone can sign up as an organ and tissue donor, no matter their age or medical condition. Organs that can be donated include kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreases and small intes-

tines. Tissues that can be donated include corneas, skin, heart valves, bones, veins and tendons.

While New Year's resolutions typically focus on the betterment of ourselves, becoming an organ donor helps more than just one person — as many as 74 more, in fact, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The Indiana Donor Network reported that another person is added to the national transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. Consider making a decision to help others and start the new year off right.

Behavior is getting worse

By JENNIFER RUBIN
The Washington Post

If politics is downstream from culture, then culture is downstream from character. And right now, we have a character crisis in America. It's often characterized as a civility crisis.

"In a study of 1,000 American adults during the pandemic, 48% of adults and 55% of workers said that in November 2020, they had expected that civility in America would improve after the election," the New York Times reports. "By August, the expectations of improvement had fallen to 30% overall and 37% among workers. Overall, only 39% of the respondents said they believed that America's tone was civil." And no surprise: "The study also found that people who didn't have to work with customers were happier than those who did."

It would be convenient to blame COVID-19 or Donald Trump, but the problem started long before either became a national blight. Back in 2013, studies were warning that "civility in America continues to disintegrate and rude behavior is becoming the 'new normal.'" The report "Civility in America 2019" found that 93% of Americans identified incivility as a problem; 68% considered it a "major" one, and 74% thought it was getting worse.

"Incivility," which one associates with minor social infractions or foul language, doesn't really capture the enormity of the crisis, though. Airline passengers assaulting flight attendants, parents threatening school board members, customers haranguing store clerks or fellow shoppers — these have all become common occurrences. Scholarly studies document increased hostility in the workplace, too.

Author and columnist Tom Nichols has been writing for years about "a long trend of rising narcissism and a sense of entitlement that was enabled by peace, prosperity, and rapidly improving living standards." We've become impatient, selfish, self-absorbed and increasingly violent — all before the pandemic. The coronavirus merely worsened the problem by fueling a surge in mental and stress-related illness.

Our expectations (instant, perfect service, no matter how unreasonable the demand) are out of whack not only with pandemic-stricken America but really any society under the best of conditions. Flights get canceled.

Jennifer Rubin



Stores run out of merchandise. Obscure items take time to get delivered. Our capacity for inconvenience is as small as our national attention span — and both have been shrunk by social media that prods us to anger. For every Donald Trump and Marjorie Taylor Greene banned from Twitter, there's an army of equally offensive users.

Understandably, parents have been frustrated by school shutdowns. But fury at schools is disproportionate and entirely unfair. Imagine if schools had continued in person pre-vaccine and children had died.

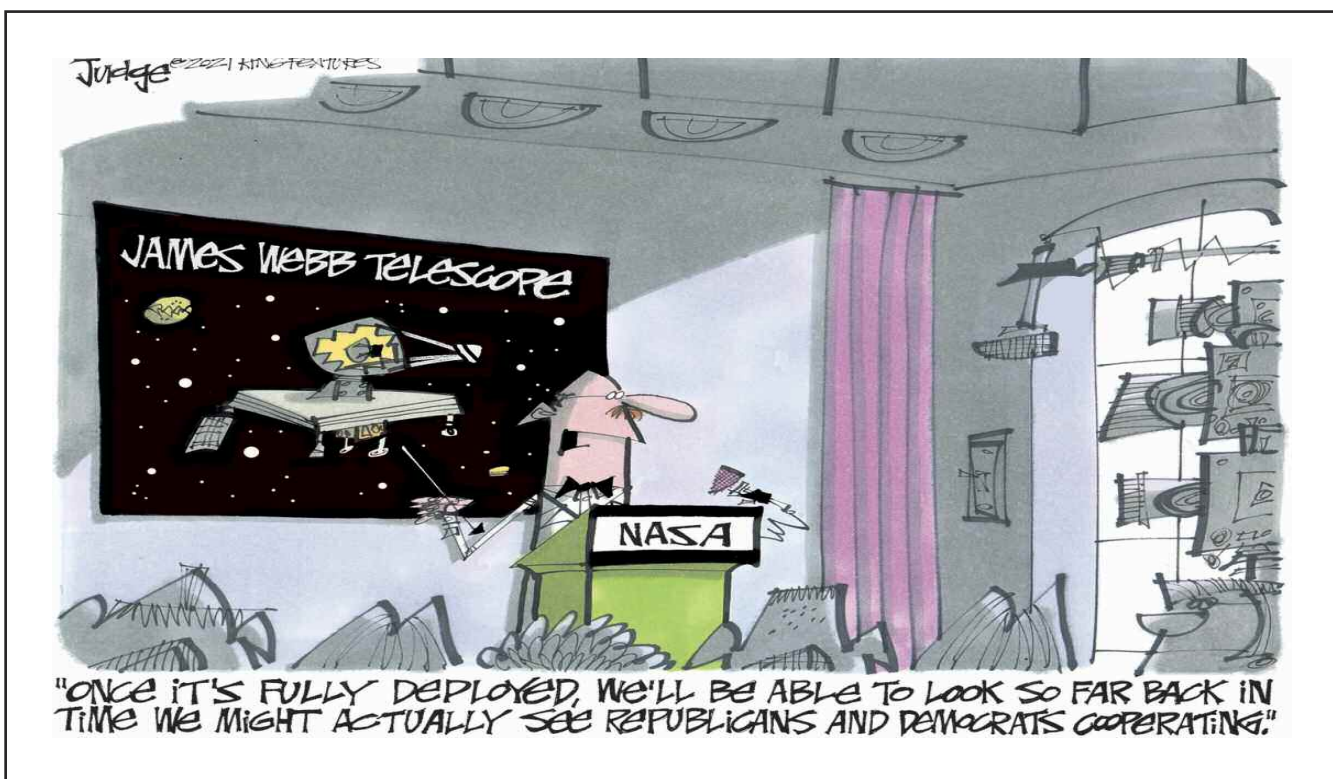
Monday-morning quarterbacking and I-told-you-so invective are practically national pastimes. Solutions to unprecedented and complicated problems are somehow supposed to be self-evident and come without adverse consequences of their own. And sure enough, the media and public will become incensed when political leaders turn out to lack clairvoyance.

Elected officials should set a better of example on the civility, tolerance and decency front. But keep in mind that craven politicians more often than not follow the herd. They race to catch up to the unhinged mob, aping the public's vulgarity, rudeness and proclivity for violence. (Hence, Ivy League-educated senators sound like angry country bumpkins and campaign ads depicting candidates shooting something become commonplace.)

Blame the decline in religious faith or the proliferation of cringe-worthy entertainment. Blame Mark Zuckerberg. Blame parents for not parenting, teachers for not teaching and ministers for not ministering. But ultimately, adults are responsible for their own conduct. And if we can no longer muster enough self-restraint, empathy, civic-mindedness, self-discipline and rationality to navigate ordinary interactions, responsible self-governance will remain out of reach.

Unless we all shape up, demand better of ourselves and others, and reassert basic social norms, democracy and social cohesion will continue to unravel.

Rubin writes reported opinion for The Washington Post.



2021 was unnecessarily horrible

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The end of 2021 must be met with relief by most Americans. It was a grim and dangerous year that needed not have been so awful. As 2020 passed into memory, there were signs of hope everywhere. The miracle of vaccination offered to end the COVID-19 pandemic that gave our economy its worst year on record and killed 375,000 of our neighbors. The bitter election of 2020 was over, and we could look forward to the 46th consecutive peaceful transition of a presidential power. The tranquility that follows from elections offered a quieter, more prosperous 2021. This hope was shattered, repeatedly and with grim and dangerous outcomes.

The very heart of our democracy was attacked on Jan. 6, 2021, as a group of rioters, sprinkled with hundreds of active insurrectionists, attempted to overthrow our government. For the first time in two centuries, our Capitol was ransacked. Our elected leaders, including the vice president and all the members of the House and Senate, were evacuated from their places of duty in the chambers of Congress.

We have had many enemies in the 245 years of this Republic, but none have successfully interfered with Congress in this solemn duty. Not in the Civil War, not at the heights of two world wars, a Cold War or terror attacks has this happened. A year later, we have arrested 700, imprisoned dozens and are in the midst of a lengthy investigation that seems poised to link members of Congress and the Trump administration to sedition and insurrection.

Hopefully, this unfolds through the coming year, bringing to justice those who sought to undo our democracy. But, as we end 2021 and move into another election, the same dark forces that organized the Capitol attack remain focused on again regaining the presidency by whatever means are needed. This attack on our Republic is far from over, and as 2021 ends remains the most dangerous threat to our democracy since the Civil War.

By New Year's Day of 2021, COVID vaccines had been administered to nearly every healthcare worker and first responder. Here in Indiana, a truly first-rate vaccination plan was in full swing. By January, vaccines were abundant, easy to schedule online and available in every city and county in the state. It seemed like time to breathe a sigh of relief over



Michael J. Hicks

the imminent end of the pandemic. That was premature.

The polarization of politics interrupted a sensible, non-partisan public health effort. To put the silliness in context, nearly every American adult has had dozens of vaccines. Here in Indiana, children are required to have a total of 22 vaccines or boosters to finish high school. If you are a veteran, you've had maybe two dozen more. Yet, a stunning number of Americans have decided to oppose the COVID vaccine, largely as a marker of political fealty.

Since June, when vaccines were universally available, nearly 200,000 unvaccinated adults have died of COVID. Stunningly, after the vaccine was fully available, COVID as a cause of death spiked in adults aged 25 to 64. These are the unvaccinated. But older adults were vaccinated, and saw COVID death rates decline. Perhaps living through previous pandemics affects judgement in positive ways.

Perhaps it is a small solace that these 200,000 unvaccinated deaths were wholly voluntary. Still, we are all paying for the intransigence of the anti-vaxxers, none more so than the families of those who have died without reason. We now have two deeply dishonorable causes for which a few hundred thousand Americans have surrendered their lives. The Confederacy and COVID anti-vaxxers. Both belong in the intellectual garbage can of history.

The large number of vaccine opponents slowed the economic recovery, perhaps stalling it in early summer. The continuing effects of COVID strain our economy and contribute to ongoing fiscal and monetary stimulus. As 2021 ends, we still are not fully recovered.

The effect of stimulus and modest recovery also brought supply chain troubles to the USA. Though the overburdened logistics system mostly accommodated the huge growth in demand, the supply chain disruptions remain an annoyance. The economic recovery from COVID remained uneven across workers and industries. While the unemployment

rate plunged, millions of workers failed to re-enter the labor force. For many workers, the decision to remain out of work is designed to improve their lives, but that doesn't lessen the workplace challenges for businesses.

This past year also saw inflation re-emerge as a threat to our economy. By autumn, prices for staples, such as meat, milk and gasoline were noticeably higher. Some of this turned out to be transient, receding as supply chain disruptions were smoothed out, but most of these price increases are more permanent. Though we remain months away from real risk of accelerating inflation, it is now clearly a growing threat. This means higher interest rates, and an economy that will be growing more slowly in 2022.

Internal security threats posed by insurrectionists, economic weakness and political misjudgments cloud our nation's international affairs. A stronger, more confident nation would not have failed in Afghanistan as we did. Arguably, our departure always would be difficult, but it could hardly have been planned more poorly. The damage it did to our alliances makes war elsewhere more likely.

The world is too dangerous, with too many adversaries on too many fronts for us to suffer unforced errors of this type. As I write this, Russian forces mass along the Ukraine border, seemingly unafraid of the United States or NATO. If we dodge war in this region, we should count ourselves more lucky than smart.

The passing year was not all bad news, but nearly all the good news was more muted because of failures. We suffered the failure of a losing president who did not respect our Constitution, his oath before God nor the American people. We suffered the broad failure of an anti-vaxx revolt that unnecessarily cost the lives of 200,000 Americans. We suffered a stumbling economy that has still not fully adjusted to the COVID shock or risk of continued disease. We suffered a humiliating defeat of arms through the absence of strong leadership or planning.

We should all welcome the New Year, now more than ever.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

The Commercial Review

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The Washington Post/Amanda AndradeRhoades

Snowy streets

Pedestrians walk through snow-covered streets in Washington, D.C., on Monday. A large-scale winter storm dumped up to 12 inches on parts of the D.C. region and left them and thousands of people and businesses — especially in parts of Virginia — without power and residents in the District waiting days for snowplows.

Bill ...

Continued from page 1
The House action follows conservative criticism of President Joe Biden's vaccine requirements for certain workers and two lengthy public hearings dominated by grievances over government-ordered virus precautions. Health experts argued that the limitations would hurt efforts to stem COVID-19 spread while the state's hospitals are strained with their highest-ever overall patient counts.

The fast-spreading omicron variant has pushed Indiana's number of confirmed COVID-19 infections to an average of nearly 10,000 a day, according to state Health Department tracking. That is the highest level during the pandemic as Indiana's hospitals were treating about 3,300 COVID-19 patients as of Wednesday — a number that is up about 170% from two months ago and the highest since mid-December 2020 before the vaccines were widely available.

Health officials on Thursday added 150 COVID-19 deaths, most occurring over the past three weeks, to Indiana's death toll. The state has averaged more than 40 such deaths a day since early December, and the pandemic total has reached almost 19,500.

Indiana's vaccination rate has stagnated for months despite pleas from Holcomb and medical groups for more people to get the shots. Indiana has the country's ninth lowest rate for a fully vaccinated population at 52.1%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said people need to take responsibility for protecting themselves against COVID-19 and that he didn't believe businesses could rely on vaccinations to prevent spread among their employees.

Court weighing vaccine rules

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court began hearing arguments Friday on major Biden administration efforts to bump up the nation's vaccination rate against COVID-19 at a time of spiking coronavirus cases because of the omicron variant.

The justices on the conservative-oriented court were taking up the questions of whether to allow the administration to enforce a vaccine-or-testing requirement that applies to large employers and a separate

vaccine mandate for most health care workers. The arguments were expected to last at least two hours.

Legal challenges to the policies from Republican-led states and business groups are in their early stages, but the outcome at the high court probably will determine the fate of vaccine requirements affecting more than 80 million people.

"I think effectively what is at stake is whether these mandates are going to go into effect at all," said Sean Marotta, a Washington lawyer whose clients include the American Hospital Association. The trade group is not

involved in the Supreme Court cases.

The challengers argue that the vaccine rules exceed the administration's authority, but Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, wrote that both are needed to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and deaths.

Keeping the vaccine mandate for health care workers on hold "will likely result in hundreds or thousands of deaths and serious illnesses from COVID-19 that could otherwise be prevented," Prelogar wrote.

Nearly 207 million Americans,

62.3% of the population, are fully vaccinated, and more than a third of the country has received a booster shot, including the nine justices.

The court said Friday that Justice Sonia Sotomayor would not be on the bench with her colleagues, opting instead to take part remotely from her office at the court. Sotomayor, who has had diabetes since childhood, has been the only justice who wore a mask to previous argument sessions in the courtroom. Two of the six lawyers arguing were also participating remotely by telephone, at least one because of a positive COVID-19 test.

Deeds

Continued from page 2

Stacy R. Skeens, Carrie K. Long and Brian M. Shrack to Joshua A. Glessner, warranty deed — Parts of Lots 11 and 12, Block 5, original plat of Pennville

Nicholas J.W. Stump and Brandi K. Speece to Gene Ann Liechty Trust, warranty deed — Part of Section 4, Jackson Township, 1 acre

Marshia A. and Michael E. Slusser to themselves, death deed — Part of Section 9, Noble Township, 14.20 acres

Melinda M. Farlow (also known as Melinda M. Fuller) to Christine Brown, warranty deed — Lot 136, Mt. Auburn Addition

Walnut Corner Church to American Electric Power/Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, easement — Part of Section 4, Greene Township, 0.298 acres

Michael J. Bishop (deceased) and Patricia B. Bishop to Patricia B. Bishop, deed affidavit — Part of Lot 2, Block 18, original plat of Dunkirk

Jerry W. Linda S. Leonard to Timothy Leonard, warranty deed — Part of Section 29, Greene Township, 1.41 acres

Michael E. Slusser to Linda D. Arnold, quit claim deed — Part of Section 9, Noble Township, 2 acres

Linda D. Arnold and Michael E. Slusser (also known as Michael D. Slusser) to David J. and Linda A. Garke, warranty deed — Section 9, Noble Township, 16 acres

Nicci J. Littler to Mary E. Anderson, quit claim deed — Part of Lots 5 and 6, Block 11, original plat of Dunkirk

Kandy E. Spahr to Kandy E. Spahr Revocable Trust, warranty deed — Section 31, Greene Township, 60.50 acres

Greg J. Broering to himself and Brenda Y. Broering, quit claim deed — Section 13, Wayne Township, 78.50 acres; Section 29, Noble Township, 16.954 acres

Brenda Y. and Greg J. Broering to Marvin P. Broering Trust and Jennifer L. Broering Trust, quit claim deed — Parts of Section 29, Noble

Township, about 38.954 acres; Section 27, Wayne Township, 47.758 acres

Marvin P. Broering Trust and Jennifer L. Broering Trust to Brenda Y. and Greg J. Broering, quit claim deed — Section 33, Noble Township, about 118.62 acres

Marvin P. Broering Trust and Jennifer L. Broering Trust to Brenda Y. and Greg J. Broering, quit claim deed — Section 13, Wayne Township, 78.50 acres

Ronda S. Morningstar to Jeremy R. and Rhandi

N. Mackey, warranty deed — Part of Section 34, Jackson Township, 2 acres

Kent K. and Kim K. Homan to American Electric Power/Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, easement — Section 12, Knox Township, 1.994 acres

Debbie L. and Donnie J. James to China M. Martin, warranty deed — Part of Section 26, Knox Township, 1.28 acres

Donald R. Jeffris (deceased) to Joseph Jeffris, Jessica Newsome and

Cash R. Pinkston, personal representative deed — Sections 32 and 33, Jefferson Township

Fisher Packing Company to Remleon Holdings, warranty deed — Part of Lots 1, 4, 5 and 6, Block 7,

original plat of Portland; Part of Section 23, Richmond Township, 28.82 acres

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Spring Home Improvement

Friday, March 19 (ad deadline Mar. 12)

Spring Sports

Wednesday, April 7 (ad deadline Mar. 31)

Ag Outlook

Friday, April 23 (ad deadline Apr. 16)

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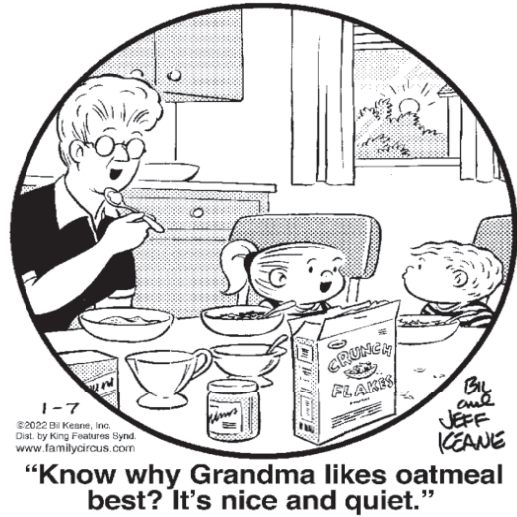
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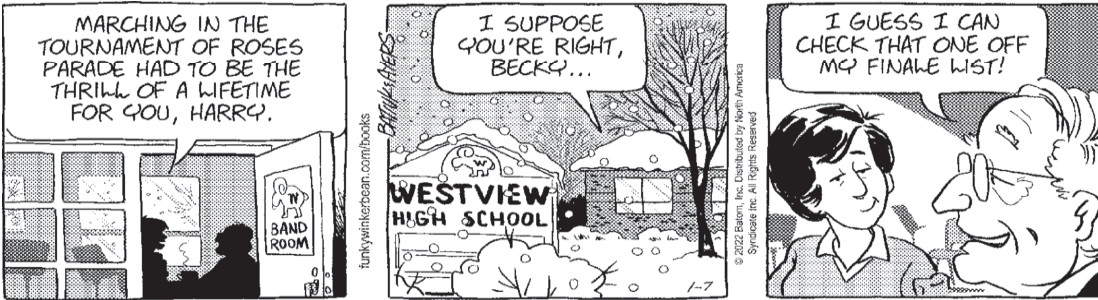
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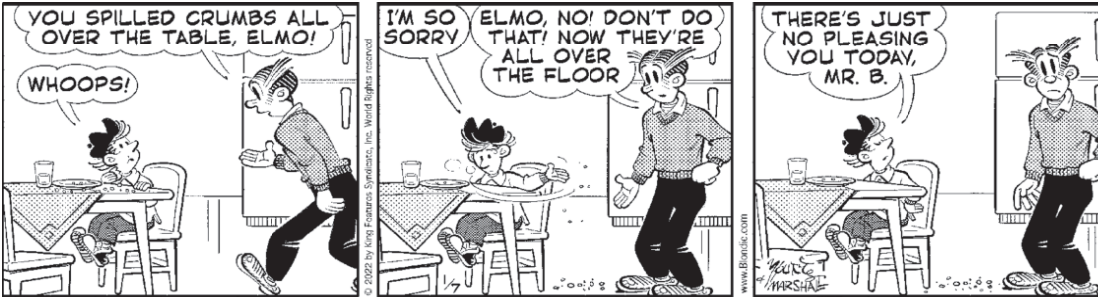
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90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION Saturday, January 29th, 2022 TIME 10:00 A.M. AUCTION LOCATION: Bryant Community Center (107 South Malin Street, Bryant, IN) REAL ESTATE This auction consists of two land offerings; one offering in Adams County, and the other within Jay County. Both offerings are a part of the WRP Program and are excellent hunting and recreational areas! All land will be auctioned from the Bryant Community Building at the address above, but for inquiries or to see the land, contact the auctioneers! JAY COUNTY OFFERING This offering consists of 43 +/- acres, located within Section 3 of Wabash Township in Jay County, Indiana. OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke, and Martin Collins ADAMS COUNTY OFFERING 128 total acreage located within Section 17 of Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana. The land is non-tillable and will be offered as one of three tracts: OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke SHAWNEE AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC3180004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com

LIVE/SIMULCAST Location: Bricker Auction House 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN Saturday, January 8th., 2022 2:00 PM Preview will be held Friday, Jan. 7th from 12-6. Ammo, Lever Action Rifles and Shot Guns, Several Pieces of Furniture, Milk Glass, Sterling Silver Jewelry, Pyrex, Vintage Hot Wheels and Toys, Vintage Postcards, Several Cast Iron Skillets, Glassware, Home Decor, Pepsi Advertisement, NYPD Pedal Car, and Several Antique Radios and Radio Tubes, and Much More! Go to www.bidbricker.com or download our app (Bricker Auction Company) from your Google or Apple store to start bidding. Cell: 260-703-0839 Bricker Auction Company Chad Bricker-Auctioneer AU11600027

ONLINE ONLY Location: Bricker Auction House 414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN Sunday, January 9th., 2022 7:00 PM Pick up is January 10th from 12-5. China cabinet, corner cabinet, bedroom suite, vintage vanity, bookcases, vintage trunk, large collection of Germany clocks, vintage toys, several jewelry boxes, vintage glass lamps, Coca-Cola memorabilia, miniature doll collection, board games, wall hangings, figurines, vintage tins, kerosene lamps, washboards, VHS tapes, trampoline, DVDs, vintage Winston, Salem, and Camel lighters, Pyrex, vintage ash trays, assorted garage items, power chair, vintage water pump, and much more ! Go to www.bidbricker.com or use our app (Bricker Auction Company) to start bidding! Cell: 260-703-0839 Bricker Auction Company Chad Bricker-Auctioneer AU11600027

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterday's answer 1-7
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Sports

Jay rallies, holds on to top Tribe

FORT RECOVERY — The Patriots trailed at halftime. They built a lead in the third and then held on for the win.

Jay County Junior High School's eighth grade girls basketball team erased a halftime deficit and held on down the stretch for a 35-30 win against the Fort Recovery Indians.

The Patriots were down 16-15 at halftime after leading 9-4 at the end of the first quarter. A 10-2 advantage in the third gave the visitors a lead they never relinquished despite being outscored 12-10 in the fourth.

Hallie Schwieterman led Jay County with 12 points, her second consecutive double-digit scoring effort. Ella Rigby followed with six points, while Gabi Petro and Natalie May had four points each.

Kady Allred and Lizzy Brunswick finished with three points each.

Stats for Fort Recovery were not provided.

Local roundup

Jay cruises

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Jay County junior high wrestling team cruised to a 66-24 victory against the Coldwater Cavaliers on Tuesday.

Grant Linville (80 pounds), Jacoby Robinson (134) and Chris Compton (172) all won by pin. Linville got a win in 2 minutes, 47 seconds, Robinson got the victory in 4 minutes and Compton's pin came in 1:24.

Sylas Wenk, Seth Bee, Hayden Richman, Cole Carpenter, Leighton Brown, Garrett Bennett, Rhysin Blowers and Alan Ortiz all received forfeits.

Leighton Brown and Bennett both won their exhibition matches.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Josh Monroe of Jay County High School swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay during Thursday's home meet against Coldwater and Celina. Monroe joined Nick Lyons, Kyle Sanders and Wyatt Kunkler to win the event as the Patriots cruised to a double win.

Colts must win to get in playoffs

By MARK LONG

AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — For the Indianapolis Colts to make the playoffs for the third time in four years, they need to do something they haven't done since 2014: win in Jacksonville.

It's hardly a daunting task considering the woe-filled Jaguars have allowed opponents to end skids almost weekly.

Jacksonville's last six opponents have halted multi-game losing streaks against the clueless and often clueless Jaguars (2-14). Although the Colts (9-7) don't fall into that category — they lost to Las Vegas last week after winning six of seven — they can snap a lengthy road skid against Jacksonville on Sunday.

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Boys sweep, girls rebound

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

With their first big post-Christmas meeting up next, both Patriot teams came away with victories Thursday.

The Jay County High School boys swim team made it a sweep of the week, following up Tuesday's win over Belmont by beating visiting Coldwater 98-16 and Celina 91-38 Thursday.

The girls team, with most of its lineup back, bounced back from Tuesday's loss to Belmont with wins of 135-37 over Celina and 99-71 over Coldwater in the double dual meet.

"I was extremely happy with how we swam tonight," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik, whose team hosts the Jay County Invitational this weekend.

Kunkler, Sanders power boys as Bader returns to lead Patriot girls

"It was nice coming back after a tough loss for the girls Tuesday night, the boys going undefeated this week. It was a big morale booster for everybody. We're starting to gel as a team."

Wyatt Kunkler and Kyle Sanders powered the boys to their second consecutive win after their two-week break — their last meet prior to Tuesday was Dec. 20 — with two individual wins apiece.

Kunkler handled the sprints for the Patriots, posting career-best times of 25.94 second in the 50-yard freestyle and 56.6 in the 100 freestyle to lead a one-two Patriots finish ahead of teammate Nick Lyons. Sanders cruised to victories by more than seven seconds in both of his events as he won the 200 freestyle in 2 minutes, 1.17 seconds, and 100 breaststroke in 1:12.09.

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